

Message Text

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54

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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R 300910Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3662

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL ZACREB

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E.O. 11652

TAGS: PFOR YO PO

SUBJ: YUGOSLAV CALL FOR NON-INTERFERENCE IN PORTUGAL

1. EDITORIAL BY OFFICIAL TANJUG'S DIPLOMATIC EDITOR
VELIMIR BUDIMIR, WHO GENERALLY REPRESENTS GOVERNMENT
VIEWS, MAKES STRONG APPEAL FOR FOREIGN POWERS TO KEEP
OUT OF INTERNAL SITUATION IN PORTUGAL. EDIT WAS
CARRIED IN LOCAL PRESS AND ON NON-ALIGNED POOL WIRE
SERVICE JULY 25.

2. BUDIMIR DESCRIBES PORTUGAL AS IN VERY UNSETTLED STATE
AND SAYS GREATEST HELP THAT CAN BE GIVEN TO DEMOCRATIC
FORCES IS STRICT OBSERVATION OF PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERFERENCE
WHICH COULD FURTHER COMPLICATE AND AGGRAVATE EXISTING
SITUATION. TRUST (PRESUMABLY BY PORTUGUESE THEMSELVES)
PUT IN DEMOCRATIC AND PROGRESSIVE FORCES OF PORTUGUESE
SOCIETY SEEN AS STABILIZING FACTOR.

3. EDITORIAL CONTINUES THAT PORTUGAL NOW NEEDS
UNDERSTANDING AND AS MUCH ECONOMIC AID AS POSSIBLE.

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ANY WITHHOLDING OR CONDITIONING OF SUCH AID WOULD

AMOUNT TO PRESSURE OR INTERFERENCE WHILE GRANTING IT WOULD ENABLE DEMOCRATIC FORCES TO COPE WITH ECONOMIC TROUBLES AND CREATE CONDITIONS CONDUCTIVE TO SOLVING INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS.

4. BUDIMAR REFERS TO REPORTS IN A NUMBER OF WESTERN FOREIGN (PRESS) AGENCIES AND PAPERS ALLEGING THAT YUGOSLAVS HAVE "TURNED" FROM SUPPORTING ONE GROUP OF SOCIAL POLITICAL FORCES IN PORTUGAL TO ANOTHER. STORIES REPORTEDLY APPEARED IN CONNECTION WITH ANNOUNCED VISIT OF PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER AUTUNES TO BELGRADE. BUDIMIR DESCRIBED REPORTS AS "SCHEMES (WHICH) SERVE THOSE WANTING TO INTERFEREN THEMSELVES, AS WELL AS INVOLVING OTHERS IN PORTUGAL'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS." HE DENIES THATYUGUOSLAVIA HAS CHANGED ITS POLICY OF SUPPORTING PROGRESSIVE FORCES IN PORTUGAL AND CITED EXTENSIVE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND OTHER RELATIONS WITH PROTUGAL, , "BASED ON WELL KNOWN PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE, MUTUAL COOPERATION AND BENEFIT." HE EMPHASIZED YUGOSLAVIA'S CONFIDENCE AND TRUST IN PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATIC FORCES. "WITHOUT ANY INTERFERENCE FROM ABROAD SOLUTIONS TO ALL PRESENT PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES WILL BE GOUND."

5. COMMENT: EDITORIAL'S OBLIQUE LANGUAGE IS OBVIOUSLY APPEAL TO ALL OUTSIDERS ESPECIALLY US AND USSR TO FOREGO INTERFERENCE IN PROTUGAL WHICH WOULD EXACERBATE TENSE SITUATION THERE. ON OTHER HAND, ITS CALL FOR UNDERSTANDING AND ECONOMIC AID WITHOUT STRINGS ATTACHED IS ALMOST EXPLICIT CRITICISM OF EEC AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO WEST TO CONTINUE ACTIVELY SUPPORTING PROTUGUESE DEMOCRATIC AND "PROGRESSIVE" FORCES. WE ARE STRUCK BY DEFENSIVE TONE IN DENIAL THAT YUGOSLAVS HAVE SWITCHED SUPPORT FROM ONE PORTUGUESE GROUPING TO ANOTHER. THAT AND REFERENCE TO "PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE", WHICH NORMALLY APPLIES TO RELATIONS BETWEEN COMMUNISTS AND NON-COMMUNISTS, SUGGESTS THIS MAY BE REBUTTAL TO CRITICISM OF YUGOSLAV ATTITUDES TOWARD PORTUGUESE EVENTS FROM COMMUNIST OF SOCIALIST SOURCE. BY PUTTING EDITORIAL OUT ON NON-ALIGNED POOL BUT NOT ON REGULAR TANJUG WIRE SERVICE, YUGOSLAVS WISHED TO PLEAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CASE WITH THIRD WORLD, FOR REASONS WHICH ARE NOT NOW CLEAR. SILBERMAN

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